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VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

7 February 2003

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Re: United States Application No. 09/381,890
PCT/GB98/00950 (WO 98/44898)
DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE
Our Ref.: 08291-619001



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Dear M. Ledon:

In order to proceed with the above-identified United States Patent Application for Project System H, it is necessary for you to execute the enclosed Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney. Attached to the Declaration is a complete copy of the Application including the written description, claims and drawings, which was published as WO98/44898 on 15 October 1998.

We would like to remind you that you are under obligation to sign the declaration by virtue of your continuing contractual obligations with Reckitt & Colman France. You have already assigned your rights in this application to Reckitt & Colman France. The enclosed declaration is a formal requirement under the patent laws of the United States.

I would very much appreciate your signing the enclosed Declaration without detaching WO98/44898, and returning it to us as soon as possible in the enclosed pre-paid FedEx envelope. The attached € 10 note is for reimbursement of any expenses that you may incur.

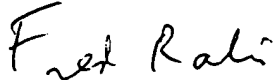
Also, we would be grateful if you would keep us informed of any changes to your address. If your address has changed from that noted on the attached declaration, please update address details on the form in manuscript.

FISH RICHARDSON P.C.

M. Philippe Ledon
7 February 2003
Page 2

I thank you in anticipation of your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to receiving the executed document as a matter of extreme urgency.

Yours very truly,



Frederick H. Rabin

FHR/myw

Enclosure

c: Ms. Karen R. Grant, Reckitt Benckiser plc, Ref. 10456P2USw

30134499.doc

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A61K 7/155	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/44898 (43) International Publication Date: 15 October 1998 (15.10.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB98/00950 (22) International Filing Date: 30 March 1998 (30.03.98) (30) Priority Data: 97400811.2 9 April 1997 (09.04.97) EP (34) <i>Countries for which the regional or international application was filed:</i> FR et al. 9711447.4 4 June 1997 (04.06.97) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except MN US): RECKITT & COLMAN FRANCE [FR/FR]; 15, rue Ampère, Boîte Postale 83, F-91301 Massy Cedex (FR). (71) Applicant (for MN only): RECKITT & COLMAN PRODUCTS LIMITED [GB/GB]; One Burlington Lane, London W4 2RW (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GUILLAUME, Bruno [FR/FR]; 3, impasse de la Chesnaye, Craches, F-78660 Prunay en Yvelines (FR). LEDON, Philippe [FR/FR]; 5, hauts de Chateau, F-28300 Saint Prest (FR). CANELAS, Annick [FR/FR]; 53, rue de Voves, F-28630 Le Coudray (FR). ACHER, David [FR/FR]; 1, rue Jean Laillet, Appartement 10, F-28000 Chartres (FR). HEMERY, Séverine		[FR/FR]; Les Oeillets 16, La Potinière, F-27320 Nonancourt (FR). DAHMS, Gerd [DE/DE]; Beerenbusch 11, D-42549 Velbert (DE). DESMOTS, Sarah [FR/FR]; 4, rue de la Fulda, F-28100 Dreux (FR). DELAGNEAU, Hubert [FR/FR]; 14, rue des Tilleuls, Bailleau l'Eveque, F-28300 Mainvilliers (FR). (74) Agents: ILOTT, Elizabeth, Anne et al.; Reckitt & Colman plc, Group Patents Dept., Dansom Lane, Hull HU8 7DS (GB). (81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE (57) Abstract A depilatory composition in the form of an aqueous gel comprises a substance capable of degrading hair keratin and a water-soluble polymeric binder and is buffered to a pH of from 10.5 to 13.0. The polymeric binder is formed from a first component that is a charged cross-linked polymer and a second component that comprises a linear non-ionic and/or charged polymer. The composition is preferably in the form of a stable gel that can be applied by means of a pump spray.		

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DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE

This invention relates to depilatory compositions, in particular those in the form of a gel.

- 5 Compositions for removing superfluous body hair are well known. These are of various types. One type of composition is in the form of a cream containing a depilatory agent which degrades hair keratin. In the case of a depilatory cream, hair is removed by applying the cream to an area of skin to be depilated, leaving the cream on the skin for sufficient time for the hair to be chemically dissolved, and then wiping and/or washing the cream and unwanted hair from the skin. Another type of composition is in the form of a wax, which is initially heated before being applied to the skin in a generally molten state. It is then allowed to solidify before being removed from the skin together with unwanted hair.
- 10 British patent specification no. GB 2 223 170 discloses a two-part depilatory composition in which the first part comprises polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and the second part comprises borax and a polyhydroxy alcohol, or Congo red; the second part functioning to effect a controlled rate of cross-linking of the PVA.
- 15 After *in situ* cross-linking, such compositions solidify, requiring the use of a plasticiser to enable the solid to be peeled from the skin. Such compositions preferably also include a surfactant.

- 20 Depilatory compositions in the form of a gel are less common and attempts to market such gels have had
- 30

-2-

only limited success. The gels tended to have a higher skin irritancy than cream depilatories and became very sticky when being rinsed off because of the nature of the polymer present in the formulation. Moreover, depilatory compositions need to be of high
5 pH, and problems were encountered in formulating a gel which would be stable in such highly alkaline conditions.

It is an aim of the present invention to provide a
10 depilatory composition in the form of a gel which does not suffer from these disadvantages.

It is a further aim of the present invention to provide a depilatory composition in the form of a gel which may be sprayed onto the skin without
15 propellant.

It is another aim of the present invention to provide a depilatory gel having a reduced tendency to irritate the skin.

20 It has been found that these aims can be achieved by forming a gel from two water-soluble polymeric components and in a pH environment maintained by a preferred buffer system. One of the polymeric components provides the gel with appropriate
25 viscosity and the other polymeric component contributes to the stability of the gel.

Accordingly, one aspect of the present invention provides a depilatory composition in the form of an aqueous alkaline gel comprising:-
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-3-

- (i) a first polymeric binder comprising a charged, cross-linked, water-soluble polymer;
- 5 (ii) a second polymeric binder comprising a linear, water-soluble polymer;
- (iii) a depilatory agent; and
- 10 (iv) a buffer system capable of maintaining the pH of the composition at a value of from 10.5 to 13.0.

Preferably, the composition remains in the form of an aqueous alkaline gel in use.

15 According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a process for producing a depilatory composition, which process comprises:-

- 20 (i) forming a first premix by mixing water and a first polymeric binder comprising a charged, cross-linked, water-soluble polymer; forming a second premix by mixing water, a buffer and a second polymeric binder comprising a linear, water-soluble polymer; and optionally forming a third
25 premix by mixing a depilatory agent and a keratin degradation accelerator;
- (ii) adding a depilatory agent or the third premix to the second premix with stirring;

30

-4-

(iii) adding the first premix to the resultant mixture with stirring; and

(iv) adjusting the pH to between 10.5 and 13.0.

5

The depilatory compositions of the present invention accordingly possess unique rheological qualities, which can be defined *inter alia* by their characteristic viscosity properties. For example, the shear rate (in seconds⁻¹) needed to decrease the viscosity of the gel by half is in the range of from about 10⁻² s⁻¹ to about 200 s⁻¹, preferably from about 1 s⁻¹ to about 50 s⁻¹. Such a large drop in the viscosity of depilatory compositions is not seen with prior art formulations over these shear rate ranges. At a low shear rate of about 10⁻² s⁻¹, the viscosity of the compositions of the present invention is of the order of 10³ Pas (10⁶ cP), whereas at a high shear rate of about 500 s⁻¹, their viscosity is of the order of about 0.1 Pas (100 cP). At a very high shear rate of the order of 4x10⁴ s⁻¹, such as that effected by a spray-pump (see Table 2 below), it is extremely difficult to measure viscosity, but it can be envisaged that that of the compositions of the present invention would be very low.

25 Preferably, a gel in accordance with the present invention has unique viscosity and elasticity, sustained high ionic strength and high pH.

The cross-linked polymer of the first component is such that it swells at high pH (pH 10.5 to 13) and preferably has only carbon-carbon bond

30

cross-linkages. More preferably, the elastic modulus of the first component is in the range of from 200 Pa to 1000 Pa, conveniently, 400 Pa to 600 Pa, when measured at a frequency of 10 rad/s; at a temperature of 20°C and a strain of 0.1. The elastic (storage) modulus (G') corresponds to the energy which can be stored and released by the material.

Suitable first components include a cross-linked acrylic polymer such as a carbomer, for example, Ultrez 10 and/or Carbopol ETD 2020 from Goodrich, and Structure 2000 and 3001 from National Starch. Another suitable polymer is a cross-linked polyacrylamide such as Seppigel 305. Most preferably, the polymer of the first component is a copolymer of methyl vinyl ether and maleic anhydride cross-linked with dodecadiene available from ISP under the trade designation Antaron Stabilise 06.

Preferably, the depilatory composition includes from 0.1% to 3.0% by weight of the first component.

The second component is a linear non-ionic polymer and/or a positively charged polymer and/or a negatively charged polymer. The second, linear component is one which acts as a suspending agent for the gel and moderates the elastic modulus thereof to enable spreadability. Any suitable linear polymer may be chosen which enables the gel structure to be maintained at the osmotic pressure in the composition. Such linear polymers include hydrophilic polymers having a molecular weight of less than about 600 and non-ionic gel-forming polymers. For example, the second component may

comprise a water-soluble non-ionic polymer such as polyethylenimine, polyethylene oxide or polyethylene glycol (PEG), a hydrophobically-modified polyol such as Acrysol 44 from Rohm and Haas, or a polyvinyl pyrrolidone such as PVP K from ISP or Luviskol from BASF.

Alternatively, or additionally, the second component may comprise a natural water-soluble polymer such as cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, cetyl hydroxyethyl or propyl cellulose (for example Natrosol Plus from Aqualon), starch, polyglucoside, a polysaccharide such as an alginate, guar gum, carrageenan (lambda, kappa, iota), a sclerotium gum, a polypeptide with or without any alkyl chain (C1 to C18) modification and cationic end groups such as quaternary ammonium groups with counter ions such as chlorides and bromides, or a copolymer of sodium acrylate and dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride (such as that known as Merquat), or a copolymer of hydroxy ethyl cellulose and dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride (such as that known as Celquat).

Most preferably, the second component comprises polyethylenimine (such as that known under the trade name Lupasol from BASF) and/or polyvinyl pyrrolidone (such as that known under the trade designation PVP K-30 from ISP).

Preferably, the depilatory composition includes from 0.2% to 3.0% by weight of the second component.

The first and second components, when combined in accordance with the present invention, form a

polymeric binder having unique viscosity and elasticity.

5 The depilatory agent may comprise any substance capable of degrading keratin and may be, for example, a sulphur compound such as potassium thioglycolate, dipotassium thioglycolate or thioglycerol.

10 Preferably, the depilatory composition includes from 0.1% to 6.0% by weight of depilatory agent, preferably from about 3.0% to 5.0%.

15 Also, the composition may optionally include component(s) which will accelerate the keratin reduction reaction such as urea, thiourea or dithioerythritol, dimethyl isosorbide (DMI), ethoxydiglycol (Transcutol) and methyl propyldiol (MP diol). DMI is preferred.

20 It is important that the pH of the composition is in the range of from about 10.5 to 13, and preferably about 11.0 to 12.5, to provide good depilation within about 5 minutes. In order to achieve this, a suitable buffer should be present, such as sodium silicate and/or L-arginine, sodium nicotinate and potassium polyethylenimine or a phosphate.

25 Generally, the buffer system will be present in an amount of from about 2.0% to 8.0% by weight, preferably from about 2.0% to 4.0% by weight.

30 Advantageously, the buffer system comprises from 2.0% to 3.0% by weight of L-arginine and from 0 to 1.0% by weight of polyethylenimine.

The pH buffer system preferably ensures efficacy of the depilation within 5 minutes whilst also minimizing skin irritation.

5 In order to achieve minimum skin irritation, a composition including L-arginine and/or polyethylenimine, urea and potassium and/or dipotassium thioglycolate is preferred.

10 In accordance with a preferred depilatory composition of the present invention, there is provided an aqueous alkaline gel comprising:

(i) 0.1% to 3.0% w/w of a first polymeric binder comprising a charged, cross-linked,
15 water-soluble polymer, preferably a copolymer of methyl vinyl ether and maleic anhydride cross-linked with dodecadiene;

(ii) 0.2% to 3.0% w/w of a second polymeric binder comprising a linear, water-soluble
20 polymer, preferably polyethylenimine and/or polyvinyl pyrrolidone;

(iii) 0.1% to 6.0% w/w, preferably 3.0% to 5.0% w/w of a depilatory agent, preferably
25 potassium and/or dipotassium thioglycolate;

(iv) 2.0% to 6.0% w/w, preferably 2.0% to 4.0% w/w of a buffer system, preferably L-arginine and/or polyethylenimine; and,
30 optionally,

- (v) 5.0% to 10.0% w/w of an accelerator for the degradation of keratin, preferably urea;

whereby the composition preferably remains in the form of an aqueous alkaline gel in use.

5

The gels according to the present invention are preferably transparent and remain transparent in use, depending on the amount of active ingredients present and on the procedure of mixing. Generally, they have a thick, rich feel and excellent rinsability with water. Moreover it is not necessary to include a surfactant in the compositions of the present invention, and hence they are less likely to cause skin damage.

10

15

Due to the special rheology of the polymeric binder, it is possible to include beads, dyes and/or oily particles which will remain dispersed in the gel. Optional excipients include compounds for soothing the skin such as azulene or jojoba and polyethylene glycol ester to reduce irritation. Suitable beads include encapsulated algae extract and sweet almond oil (Elespher). It is also possible to include hydrating, accelerating and/or reducing agents in beads. For example, water-soluble materials such as urea, potassium thioglycolate or thioglycerol can be included in beads, so that these actives are encapsulated.

20

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Although it is possible to provide a gel in accordance with the present invention that has visco-elastic properties suitable for spraying, the depilatory material may alternatively be applied by

means of a roll-on device or in conventional shower gel packaging.

5 Other ingredients may be included in the compositions of the invention, such as are known in the art.

Unless otherwise stated, all percentage weights referred to herein are % weights based on the weight of the total composition.

10

For a better understanding of the invention and to show how the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

15

Figure 1 is a graph of shear stress (Pa) against shear rate (s^{-1}) for a series of polymeric binders (first component) for the composition of the invention;

20

Figure 2 is a graph of the yield points (Pa) of the binders of Figure 1 against the cross-linked polymer (first component) contents (% w/w) of the binders;

25

Figure 3 is a graph of viscosities (Pas) of the binders of Figure 1 against the shear rate (s^{-1}) of the binders; and

Figure 4 is a graph of the elastic (G') and viscous (G'') moduli against stress/strain (Pa) of the first component of the composition.

30

The following Examples illustrate the invention:

EXAMPLES 1 TO 6

A series of depilatory gels was prepared having the compositions shown in the following Table 1:

5

TABLE 1

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Phase 1						
Polymer A	3.0%	2.5%	2.25%	2.0%	1.5%	1.0%
10 deionised water	47.0%	39.0%	36.35%	31.4%	23.5%	15.7%
Phase 2						
Polymer B	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
pH buffer	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
15 deionised water	10.7%	19.2%	24.8%	26.4%	38.3%	45.8%
Phase 3						
20 potassium thioglycolate (30%)	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%	14.7%
urea	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Final mix						
Phase 1	50.0%	41.5%	37.5%	33.4%	25.0%	16.7%
Phase 2	15.7%	24.2%	29.8%	33.4%	43.3%	50.8%
25 Phase 3	22.7%	22.7%	22.7%	22.7%	22.7%	22.7%
Potassium hydroxide 50%	11.6%	11.6%	10.0%	10.5%	9.0%	9.8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
30 Total deionised water	57.5%	58.0%	59.9%	59.6%	1.6%	61.3%

-12-

All amounts are expressed as % weight/weight total composition. Polymer A was a methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer cross-linked with dodecadiene known under the trade designation Antaron ST06 from ISP; and polymer B
5 was polyvinyl pyrrolidone known under the trade designation PVP K-30 from ISP. The pH buffer system was a combination of 2% w/w of L-arginine and 1% w/w of polyethylenimine.

10 In each case, an Olsa mixer with planar stirring and a high shear stirrer equipped with a vacuum and heating/cooling system was used. The procedure was as follows:

Phase 1: Premix polymer A and water.

15 The water was placed in the mixer and polymer A was added slowly with stirring. When the polymer had been dispersed, heating was commenced whilst maintaining a vacuum of about 0.5 to 0.8 bar to avoid air bubbles. The vacuum pump was operating
20 intermittently in order to reduce water loss. When the temperature had reached about 80°C an almost clear gel had been formed. This was allowed to cool and swell overnight.

Phase 2: Premix polymer B, water, pH buffer

25 The water and polymer B were introduced into the mixer and homogenised for 2 minutes. The pH buffer system was then added and the mixture homogenised for a further 2 minutes.

30

Phase 3: Urea and potassium thioglycolate

The urea was added to the potassium thioglycolate in a beaker and stirred for 1 hour to complete dissolution.

5

Final mixing: The final mixing was effected as follows:-

Phase 2 was placed in the vessel and phase 3 was added with stirring for 15 minutes. A white precipitate appeared. Phase 1 was added while mixing slowly under vacuum (0.5 bar) with planar stirring and the high shear stirrer operated at low speed. The mixture was homogenised for 30 minutes until a lumpy gel had been formed. The potassium hydroxide was then added. The gel became clear and transparent. The pH was adjusted, as necessary, to from 11.0 to 12.5.

15

Each of the resultant gels was subjected to rheological measurement. The parameters considered were shear stress, shear rate, viscosity and yield point. The results are shown in the Figures.

20

As can be seen from Figure 1, the variation of shear stress with shear rate is non-linear between 0 and 500 s^{-1} and thus the gel has a non-Newtonian behaviour with a yield point. The yield point is the stress required to make the gel flow. Figure 2 shows that the variation of the yield point (τ_0), i.e. the shear stress for zero shear rate, varies exponentially. For a small variation in the amount of polymer A, the variation in the yield point, i.e. the variation in spreadability or consistency, may be significant.

25

30

The following table, Table 2, gives characteristic shear rates of products to be sprayed with a conventional pump spray and products to be applied from a shower gel packaging.

5 TABLE 2

Type of packaging	Flow Rate (from packaging) of product (cm ³ /s)	Radius of the external output (cm)	Shear rate (s ⁻¹)
10 Pump Spray	0.17	0.0175 (radius of the actuator)	500-40000
15 Shower gel packaging	8.8	ca 0.15	500-30000

The relationship between shear rate and viscosity is shown in Figure 3, from which it can be seen that, at the shear rates given in Table 2, the viscosity is very low.

20

It has been found that, in order for the gel to be sprayable with a pump spray, its yield point should be not more than from 100 to 200 Pa. If, however, the gel is to be used in a shower gel pack, the yield point may be as high as 300 Pa. Also, in order for
25 the product to remain still for 5 minutes on the skin when held vertical, the yield point needs to be about 60 Pa or more. Thus gels wherein polymer A constitutes from 2.0% to 2.5% w/w are preferred for spraying, whereas rather lower percentages of
30 polymer A may be present where the gel is to be used in the form of a shower gel packaging.

In a further series of experiments, the blue powder Azulene was dissolved in thick paraffin oil to produce a 1% w/w solution. 2% w/w of this solution was then slowly added to each of the above gels and stirred for 5 minutes. The Azulene remained stably suspended within the gel in the form of blue oily droplets. Depending upon the concentration of Azulene in the premix and the concentration of premix in the gel, the size and colour of the droplets and the overall transparency of the gel could be adjusted.

In a further series of experiments, 0.5% w/w of Elespher was slowly added to each gel and stirred for 5 minutes. Elespher consists of encapsulated beads of algae extract and sweet almond oil, and is green in colour. The beads were stably suspended in the gel.

EXAMPLE 7

Gels were made in accordance with the following Table 3:

TABLE 3

	%w/w
Phase 1	
polymer A	1-3
water	40.0
KOH 50%	4.0
Total phase 1	47.0

-16-

	Phase 2	
	polymer B	0.6-3
	buffer system	3.0
5	water	8.2
	Total phase 2	11.8
	Phase 3	
	water	6.5
10	potassium thioglycolate (30%)	14.7
	Total phase 3	29.2
	water	to 100.0
	KOH 50%	6.15

15

The amount of water was varied depending upon the amounts of polymers A and B present. Polymers A and B were as used in Examples 1 to 6 and the mixing technique employed was as described in those Examples. In each case, stable, sprayable depilatory gels were obtained. This showed that for a range of polymer A between 1.0% and 3.0%, a range of polymer B between 0.6% and 3.0% could be used and a stable, sprayable gel formed.

20

25

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CLAIMS

1. A depilatory composition in the form of an aqueous alkaline gel comprising:

- 5 (i) a first polymeric binder comprising a charged, cross-linked, water-soluble polymer;
- (ii) a second polymeric binder comprising a
10 linear, water-soluble polymer;
- (iii) a depilatory agent; and
- (iv) a buffer system capable of maintaining the pH
15 of the composition at a value of from 10.5 to 13.0.

2. A depilatory composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cross-linked polymer of the first component is a cross-linked acrylic polymer, a
20 cross-linked polyacrylamide or a copolymer of methyl vinyl ether and maleic anhydride cross-linked with dodecadiene.

3. A depilatory composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, which includes from 0.1 to 3.0% w/w of the first
25 component.

4. A depilatory composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the second component comprises a linear, non-ionic polymer and/or positively charged
30 polymer and/or negatively charged polymer.

5. A depilatory composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein the second component comprises one or more of polyethylenimine, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, cellulose, hydroxy propyl cellulose, cetyl hydroxy ethyl cellulose, cetyl
5 hydroxy propyl cellulose, starch, a polyglucoside, a polysaccharide, guar gum, carrageenan, a sclerotium gum, a polypeptide, and a copolymer of sodium acrylate or of hydroxy ethyl cellulose with dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride.
- 10 6. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which includes from 0.2 to 3.0% w/w of the second component.
- 15 7. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the depilatory agent is potassium thioglycolate or thioglycerol.
- 20 8. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, including an accelerator for the degradation of keratin, such as urea, thiourea, dithioerythritol, ethoxydiglycol or methylpropyldiol.
- 25 9. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, including a buffer system comprising a silicate, arginine such as L-arginine, a nicotinate, polyethylenimine or a phosphate.
10. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim and having a yield point of not more than 200 Pa.

11. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the shear rate needed to decrease the viscosity of the gel by half is in the range of from 10^{-2} s^{-1} to 200 s^{-1} , preferably from 1 s^{-1} to 50 s^{-1} .

5

12. A depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, in the form of a sprayable gel.

13. A process for producing a depilatory composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which process comprises:-

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- (i) forming a first premix by mixing water and the first component; forming a second premix by mixing water, a buffer and the second component; and optionally forming a third premix by mixing a depilatory agent and a keratin degradation accelerator;
- (ii) adding a depilatory agent or the third premix to the second premix with stirring;
- (iii) adding the first premix to the resultant mixture with stirring; and
- (iv) adjusting the pH to between 10.5 to 13.0.

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Fig.1.

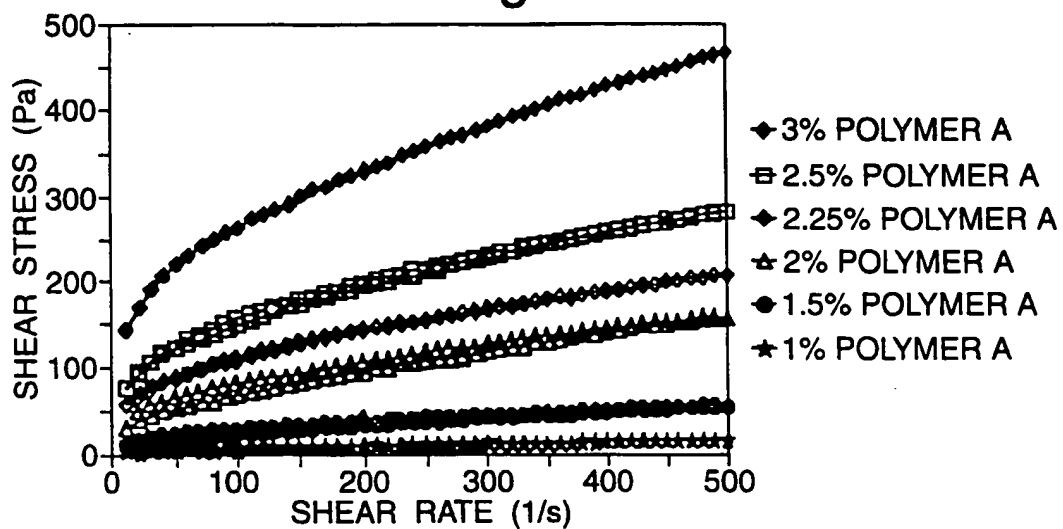


Fig.2.

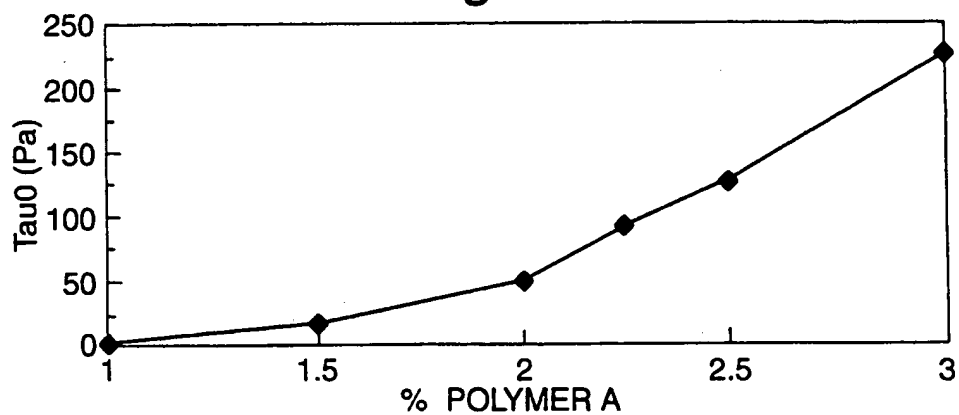


Fig.3.

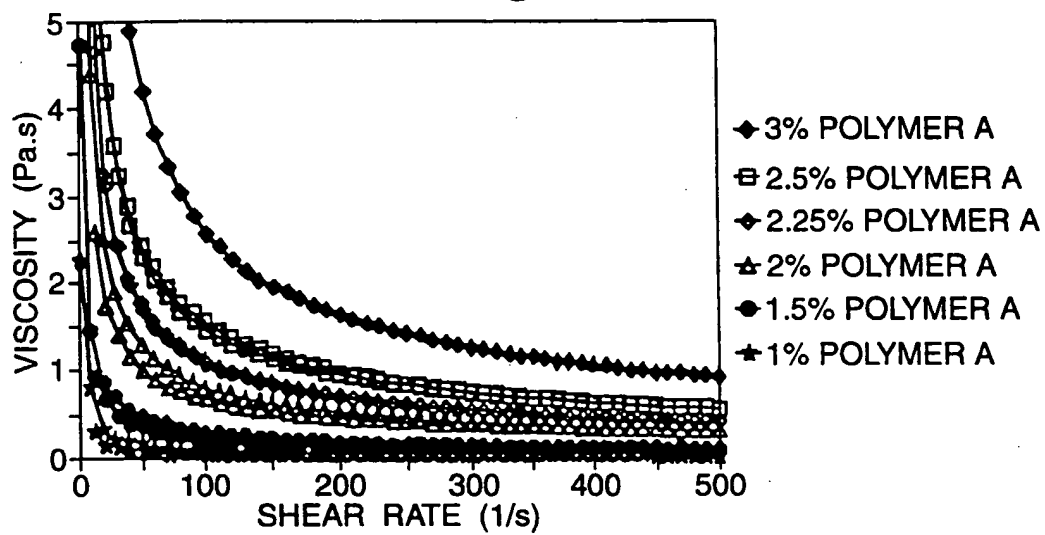
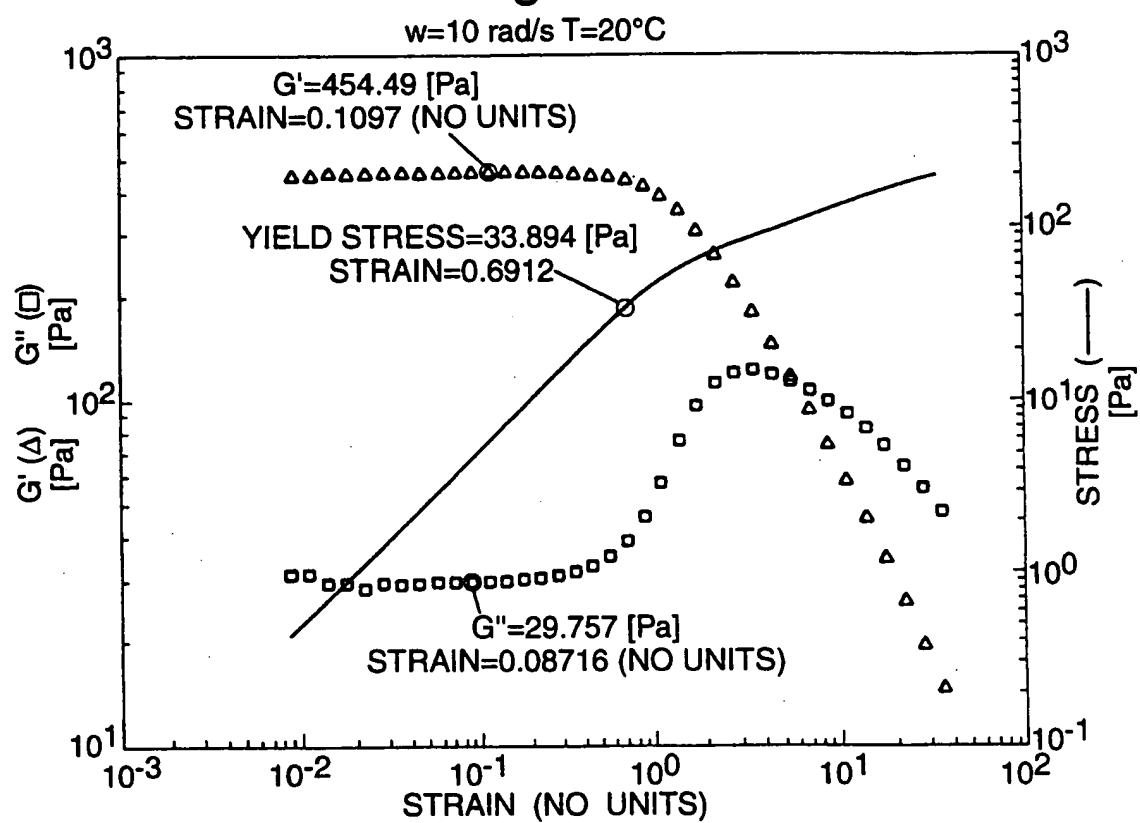


Fig.4.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In Application No
PCT/GB 98/00950

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 A61K7/155

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 91 02538 A (JOHN MORRIS CO., INC.) 7 March 1991 see example 9	1
A	EP 0 196 896 A (NITTO ELECTRIC IND. CO., LTD) 8 October 1986	1
A	US 4 842 610 A (H. GORDON ET AL.) 27 June 1989	1
A	DATABASE "CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS" (HOST: STN), Abs.110: 198 956, Columbus, OH, USA; & JP 63 313 618 (OSAKA AEROSOL IND. CO.) 21 December 1988 XP002071920	1
A,P	FR 2 751 873 A (C. DES GARETS) 6 February 1998	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 July 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

29/07/1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Glikman, J-F

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

In Application No

PCT/GB 98/00950

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9102538 A	07-03-1991	AU 6425590 A CA 2065044 A EP 0487648 A JP 5503071 T	03-04-1991 19-02-1991 03-06-1992 27-05-1993
EP 196896 A	08-10-1986	JP 62192316 A JP 61220612 A JP 1794446 C JP 4080682 B JP 61276506 A US 4830633 A	22-08-1987 30-09-1986 14-10-1993 21-12-1992 06-12-1986 16-05-1989
US 4842610 A	27-06-1989	NONE	
FR 2751873 A	06-02-1998	NONE	

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I Philippe LEDON hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor, together with Bruno GUILLAUME Annick CANELAS, David ACHER, Séverine POETTE, Gerd DAHMS, Sarah DESMOTS and Hubert DELAGNEAU, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE**, the specification of which:

was filed on September 24, 1999 as Application Serial No. 09/381,890 and, was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/GB98/00950 filed on 30 March 1998.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

Country	Application No.	Filing Date	Priority Claimed
European	97400811.2	9 April 1997	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
British	9711447.4	4 June 1997	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Frederick H. Rabin, Reg. No. 24,488
William J. Hone, Reg. No. 26,739
Stephan J. Filipek, Reg. No. 33,384
Stuart Macphail, Reg. No. 44,217
David R. Francescani, Reg. No. 25,159
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FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.
45 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 2800
New York, New York 10111

Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney

Page 2 of 2 Pages

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are **true** and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that **these** statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

Full Name of Inventor: PHILIPPE LEDON

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: _____
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Citizenship: France
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FRANCE

Orig. ID: NYCA
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FISH AND RICHARDSON P.C.
45 ROCKEFELLER PLAZE
SUITE 2800
NEW YORK
NY 10111 (US)

FedEx.

NDR 30.55(h)

To: M. Philippe Ledon 0113323736398**10 rue Varenne**

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SHIP DATE: 07FEB03
WEIGHT: 1 LBS

Champhol 28300 FRANCE (FR)

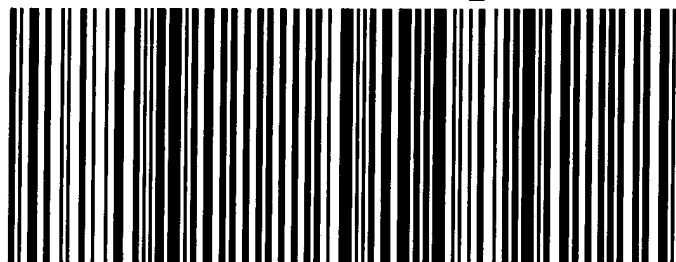
Description
Legal documents

Country Mfg.

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CARRIAGE VALUE: 0.00 USD

Ref: 08291-619001
Signature: MARYANN WHITE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Sarah DESMOTS et al.
Int'l Appln. No. PCT/GB98/00950
Int'l Filing Date: 30 March 1998
U.S. Serial No.: 09/381,890
Title: DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE

DECLARATION RE INVENTOR SÉVERINE POETTE

I, Frederick H. Rabin, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney of record in this application and am responsible for its prosecution.
2. In a renewed Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.47(a) filed on 21 February 2002, we attempted to show that inventor Séverine Poette could not, after diligent effort, be found. In a Decision on Petition dated 27 August 2002, the evidence we submitted was held to be inadequate because no attempts were made to contact Ms. Poette's local post office to check for a forwarding address or to check a local phone directory or to check an Internet directory.
3. In 20 November 2002, I sent a letter by Air Mail to Ms. Séverine Poette at his last known address asking her to execute a Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney. The Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney was stapled to a copy of PCT publication WO 98/44898. Air Mail, rather than a faster courier service, was chosen in the expectation that, if Ms. Poette was no longer at that address, the letter would be forwarded. Attached, as Exhibit Q-1, is a copy of my letter to Ms. Poette and a copy of the documents included with said letter.
4. On 2 January 2003, the letter to Ms. Poette was returned by the postal authorities with a stamp reading (in translation) "Does not live at the indicated address. Return to sender." Attached hereto, as Exhibit Q-2, is a copy of the front of the envelope.
5. In a further attempt to locate Ms. Poette, I did a search in the pagesjaune.fr database, which provides telephone numbers and addresses throughout France. No

results were obtained under the name Séverine Poette either in her town, or in the department, district or region. Furthermore, a broadened search without first name or address did not yield any results. I extended the search to cover Séverine Hémery, which was the name under which this application was originally filed. This extended search yielded:

Séverine Hémery
2 chemin de la Bouverie
28350 Dampierre sur Avre.

I passed this information on to Ms. Karen Grant, Formalities Officer in the Group Patents Department of Reckitt Benckiser plc, the parent company of the current Assignee, Reckitt Benckiser France.

7. On 6 February 2003, Ms. Grant reported to me that she had telephoned Ms. Poette and that Ms. Poette had apparently agreed to sign the declaration.

8. On 7 February 2003, I sent to Ms. Poette a letter referring to her conversation with Ms. Grant and asking her to sign the Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney. A copy of my letter is here enclosed as Exhibit Q-4. The enclosure in this letter was the same enclosure from my earlier letter, part of Exhibit Q-1. also included was a prepaid Federal Express return envelope. A copy of the Federal Express shipping label is attached as Exhibit Q-5. Federal Express, rather than postal service, was chosen because Federal Express is faster and because there was no apparent need to forward the materials to another address.

9. The Federal Express tracking document, attached hereto is Exhibit Q-6, indicates that the package was received on 17 February 2003 and signed for by "Poete". As of this date, we have not received the signed Declaration and Power of Attorney.

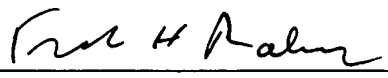
I declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so

Applicant : Sarah DESMOTES et al.
Serial No. : 09/381,890
Filed : September 24, 1999
Page : 3

Attorney's Docket No. 08291-619001 / 10456P2-Usw

made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patents issuing thereon.

Signed at New York, New York, this 21st day of February 2003



Frederick H. Rabin

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Sarah DESMOTS et al.
Int'l Appln. No. PCT/GB98/00950
Int'l Filing Date: 30 March 1998
U.S. Serial No.: 09/381,890
Title: DEPILATORY COMPOSITIONS, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE

DECLARATION RE INVENTOR PHILIPPE LEDON

I, Karen R. Grant, declare as follows:

1. I am a Formalities Officer in the Group Patents Department of Reckitt Benckiser plc.
2. Previous attempts to obtain a Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney from Philippe Ledon were unsuccessful. These attempts were documented as Exhibits E and H attached to the Declaration of Amanda J. Wilde of 16 March 2001, and further documented as Exhibit M attached to Ms. Wilde's Declaration of 4 February 2002 which was filed herein on 21 February 2002.
3. On 20 November 2002, Mr. Frederick H. Rabin made another attempt to secure Mr. Ledon's signature. Specifically, he sent him a new Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney, which was attached to a copy of PCT published application WO 98/44898. A copy of Mr. Rabin's letter to Mr. Ledon was sent to Ms. Amanda Wilde, my predecessor, and was received by me.
4. On 6 January 2003, Mr. Rabin informed me that the material sent Mr. Ledon was returned as undeliverable. Mr. Rabin also informed me that he had done a search in the pagesjaune.fr database and had come up with a Philippe Le Don, having an address different from the address of record for Philippe Ledon, but apparently in the same vicinity.
5. Mr. Rabin gave me Mr. Le Don's telephone number, which was 33-2 3736 3987, and asked me to determine whether this Mr. Le Don is the person we are looking for.

6. On numerous occasions during late January and early February, 2003, I attempted to reach Mr. Le Don by telephone but, on each occasion, I received a recorded announcement from the telephone company to the effect that the subscriber was not available. I discussed this matter further with Mr. Rabin on 7 February 2003 and he told me that, on the chance that this Mr. Le Don is the person we are looking for, he would send him the Declaration and a copy of the application for signature.

I declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patents issuing thereon.

Signed at Kingston upon Hull, England, this 21st day of February 2003



Karen R. Grant